



National Organic Program Labeling Requirements

The National Organic Program (NOP) has specific requirements concerning the labeling of organic food products. After October 21, 2002 all organic products must be labeled in compliance with these requirements. Please review your labels to ensure that they meet the NOP labeling requirements.

NOP Subpart D - Labels, Labeling and Market Information

The National Organic Program has created five label categories for organic food. These categories are:

1. **100 percent organic** – All ingredients and processing aids must be organic.
2. **Organic** – At least 95% of ingredients must be organic.
3. **Made with organic ingredients** – At least 70% of ingredients must be organic.
4. **Products with less than 70% organic ingredients.**
5. **Organic Livestock Feed.**

Key definitions –

Processing aid – A substance used during processing that does not become an ingredient or is present at insignificant levels in the finished food product.

Principal display panel – That part of a label that is most likely to be displayed, presented, shown, or examined under customary conditions of display for sale.

Information panel – That part of the label of a packaged product that is immediately contiguous to and to the right of the principal display panel as observed by an individual facing that principal display panel, unless another section of the label is designated as the information panel because of package size or other package attributes.

Ingredients statement – The list of ingredients contained in a product shown in their common and usual names in the descending order of predominance.

Non-retail containers – Non-retail containers include bulk products, fruit bins, and produce boxes that are not sold on retail store shelves.

Packaged products – Products that are enclosed in containers and are displayed and sold at retail stores or other retail outlets (e.g. farmers markets).

Agricultural products in other than packaged form at the point of retail sale – Examples of these products would include most fruit and produce in a produce display case including green onions, chard, or bunch carrots that are bundled with labeled twist tie or band.



Section 205.301 Product Composition

1. **100 percent organic** – All ingredients and processing aids used in 100% organic food must be organic.
2. **Organic** – At least 95% of ingredients must be organic. All agricultural ingredients must be either organic or not commercially available in organic form. All non-organic agricultural ingredients must not be genetically engineered; irradiated; produced from sewage sludge; or be produced with a volatile synthetic substance. All non-agricultural ingredients and processing aids used must be approved on the National List.
3. **Made with organic ingredients** – At least 70% of ingredients must be organic. All non-organic agricultural ingredients must not be genetically engineered; irradiated; or produced from sewage sludge. All non-agricultural ingredients and processing aids must be approved on the National List.
4. **Products with less than 70% organic ingredients** - All organic ingredients must be produced in compliance with the NOP regulations. There are no restrictions on the non-organic ingredients used in this labeling category.
5. **Livestock feed** – Organic livestock feed must include only organic agricultural ingredients and approved feed additives and supplements.

Section 205.303 Packaged products labeled “100 percent organic” or “organic.”

1. Optional labeling provisions - Products in these categories may display on the principal display panel:
 - The percentage of organic ingredients.
 - The USDA seal.
 - The WSDA Organic Food Program logo.
 - The term “100 percent organic” or “organic” as appropriate.
2. Required labeling provisions – Products in these categories must:
 - Identify each organic ingredient with the word, “organic,” or with an asterisk that identifies the ingredient as organic.
 - **Place on the information panel, the statement “Certified organic by the Washington State Department of Agriculture.”**
3. Prohibited labeling provisions – Products in these categories must not:
 - Identify water and salt as organic.



Section 205.304 Packaged products labeled “made with organic (specified ingredients or food groups(s)).”

1. Optional labeling provisions - Products in this category may display on the principal display panel:

- The percentage of organic ingredients.
- The WSDA Organic Food Program logo.
- The term “made with organic (specified ingredients)” as appropriate. The term “made with organic (specified ingredients)” must appear in letters that do not exceed one-half the size of the product identity.

2. Required labeling provisions – Products in this category must:

- Identify each organic ingredient with the word, “organic,” or with an asterisk that identifies the ingredient as organic.
- **Place on the information panel, the statement “Certified organic by the Washington State Department of Agriculture.”**

3. Prohibited labeling provisions – Products in this category must not display:

- The USDA seal.
- Identify water and salt as organic.

Section 205.305 Multi-ingredient packaged products with less than 70 percent organically produced ingredients.

1. Optional labeling provisions - Products in this category may display on the information panel:

- Identify each organic ingredient with the word, “organic,” or with an asterisk that identifies the ingredient as organic in the ingredients statement.
- If the organic ingredients are identified in the ingredients statement then the percentage of organic ingredients may be displayed on the information panel

2. Prohibited labeling provisions – Products in this category must not display:

- The word “organic,” on the principal display panel.
- The USDA seal.
- The WSDA Organic Food Program logo.

Section 205.306 Labeling of livestock feed.

1. Optional labeling provisions – Organic livestock feed may display on any package panel:

- The USDA seal.
- The WSDA Organic Food Program logo.
- The term “100 percent organic” or “organic” as appropriate.
- Identify each organic ingredient with the word, “organic,” or with an asterisk that identifies the ingredient as organic.



2. Required labeling provisions – Organic livestock feed must display:
 - **On the information panel, the statement “Certified organic by the Washington State Department of Agriculture.”**
3. Prohibited labeling provisions – Products in this category must not display:
 - Identify water and salt as organic.

Section 205.307 Labeling of nonretail containers used for only shipping or storage of raw or processed agricultural products labeled as “100 percent organic,” “organic,” or “made with organic (specified ingredients or food group(s)).”

1. Optional labeling provisions – These products may display:
 - The name of the certifying agent.
 - Identification of the product as organic.
 - The WSDA Organic Food Program logo.
 - The USDA seal.
2. Required labeling provisions – These products must display:
 - The production lot number to maintain identity of organic products.

Section 205.308 Agricultural products in other than packaged form (e.g. produce, bulk food) at the point of retail sale that are sold, labeled, or represented as “100 percent organic” or “organic.”

Optional labeling provisions – Retailers may display on non-packaged “100 percent organic” and “organic” products (e.g. produce, bulk food):

- The term “100 percent organic” or “organic” as appropriate.
- The seal of the state or private certification agency.
- The USDA seal.

Section 205.309 Agricultural products in other than packaged form (e.g. bulk food) at the point of retail sale that are sold, labeled, or represented as “made with organic (specified ingredients or food groups (s)).”

Optional labeling provisions – Retailers may display on non-packaged “made with organic (specified ingredients)” products (e.g. bulk food):

- The seal of the state or private certification agency.
- The term “made with organic (specified ingredients)” as appropriate. The term “made with organic (specified ingredients)” must appear in letters that do not exceed one-half the size of the product identity, provided that each organic ingredient is identified with the word, “organic,” or with an asterisk that identifies the ingredient as organic.